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G. D. NAIDU'S
SPEECHES

Education – 1

Compiled by
S. GAJENDRAN,
Coimbatore.

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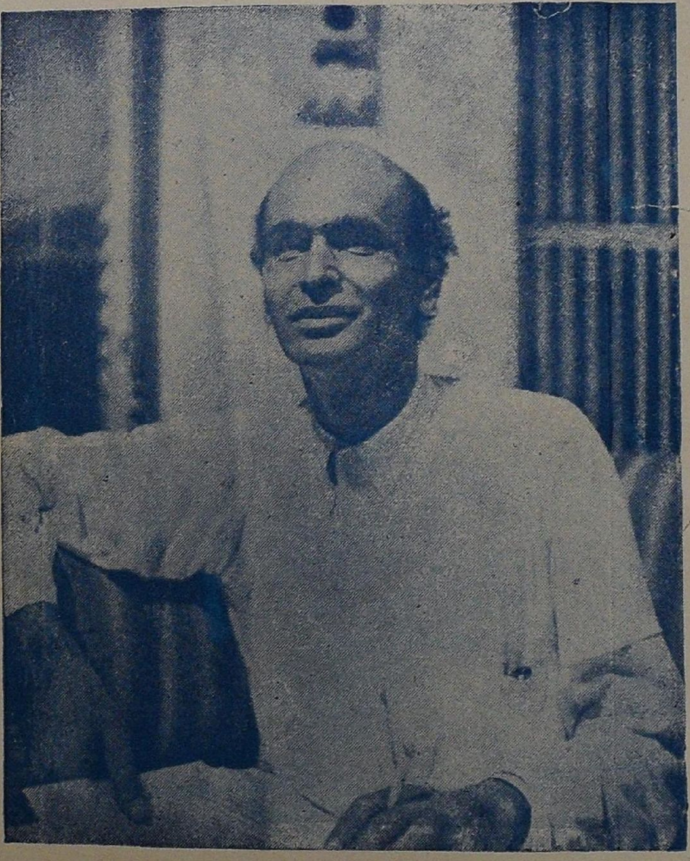

G. D. NAIDU

ADDRESS

by

MR G. D. NAIDU

at a lunch party given in honour of

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR ARTHUR HOPE G. C. I. E., M. C.,

Governor of Madras,

at

"Gopal Bagh" Avanashi Road,
COIMBATORE

on

9-1-1944

and

His Excellency's tribute

to

Mr G. D. Naidu's philanthropy

Mr G. D. Naidu's Philanthropy

Governor's Tribute

MR G. D. NAIDU gave a lunch party in honour of His Excellency the Governor of Madras at his residence "Gopal Bagh" on Sunday, January 9, 1944.

Welcoming His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Mr G. D. Naidu said:

May it please Your Excellency,

I thank you very much for having kindly accepted my invitation for lunch this afternoon. I am also thankful for the presence of MISS HOPE along with Your Excellency. I regard this occasion as a very important and memorable one, especially in relation to my present business career to which I am going to give a new turn from now onwards.

I entered this business about 25 years ago with small beginnings. In course of time, it developed by leaps and bounds to dimensions beyond my expectations. It has earned the reputation of being the most efficiently conducted bus service in India, for instance the number of accidents per mile covered, when we consider the number of passengers

carried, being the lowest in the world. But unfortunately, owing to the spread of the world war and the consequent shortage of materials, and also owing to want of co-operation on the part of subordinate officials, deterioration crept into the service which, in its turn, has led me to decide on a change-over in the management, and accordingly I have decided to hand over all the transport concerns to other hands. I crave the indulgence of Your Excellency in this connection to say some of the details, which I desire to mention.

Your Excellency will be pleased to remember that late in 1942, when Your Excellency opened the Central Bus Stand, I promised to give to the War Fund the profits accruing from this stand. I expected in the ordinary course a good accumulation of profit, but on account of the indiscriminate reduction of buses this expectation was not realised. Notwithstanding this, to implement my promise, I made an advance payment of Rs. 31,000/- towards Your Excellency's War fund. In the meanwhile I began to feel uneasy about the ruthless application of the present rules and regulations by the authorities. I, therefore, came to the conclusion, that I could spend my time more usefully and profitably towards war purposes, if I employed myself in other directions. But before I actually effected this change, I thought it only fair to come to some definite arrangement by which I could fulfil my promise to Your Excellency. With that purpose in view, I have, with Your Excellency's approval, agreed to give the sum of Rs. 70,000/- which sum I am now paying by a cheque in place of future instalments. The total

amount paid for the year thus comes to RUPEES ONE LAKH AND ONE THOUSAND. I request Your Excellency to accept this, my humble constribution.

INVESTMENT IN DEFENCE BONDS

I am also taking this auspicious opportunity to make some contribution towards Defence Bonds. Until yesterday I was not able to decide how much could be so invested. I know some people, who have been benefitted to an unexpected degree by the boom of the war and who are keeping their surplus cash in their private safes, or in banks or spending it by making fantastic purchases of lands, buildings, cars and drinks and other wasteful luxuries, thus inducing and encouraging black-markets with the consequent inflation of prices. I have been advising and persuading them to invest this money in Defence Bonds, as the prices now prevailing are not at all standard prices, and that these are bound to fall with the return of normal conditions. Though inwardly they agree with this view, some of them are not inclined to accept my advice. Further, they try to dissuade me from investing in Defence Bonds by drawing my attention to the local political atmosphere – perhaps a few of them are fifth columnists. In spite of all these things, I have decided to invest in Defence Bonds even more than I can spare in order to set an example to these people and to infuse confidence in the wavering group. Thus I am now investing RUPEES TEN LAKHS in Defence Bonds, and accordingly I am handing over a cheque for this amount.

DONATIONS

I desire to celebrate Your Excellency's first visit to this district in the New Year of Victory (1944) as my last function, while I am in these concerns by announcing the following donations out of the above-mentioned amount invested in Defence Bonds:

1. Bonds worth Rs. 5,70,000/- to be handed over to U. M. S. Ltd., CBE for the following purposes:

(*a*) Rs. 1,50,000/- to be utilised for their labourers' health, education etc., or for any other work for the uplift of their labourers.

(*b*) Rs. 1,00,000/- to be utilised for the welfare of labour in general in the Presidency.

(*c*) Rs. 50,000/- to be utilised for the welfare of the Depressed Class labour.

(*d*) Rs. 20,000/- to be given as bonus for those members of the staff, who are over fifteen years in service, to be divided equally among them or according to the merit of each individual.

(*e*) Rs. 50,000/- to be utilised for starting a journal for the uplift of the downtrodden people.

(*f*) Rs. 2,00,000/- to be utilised by the Company for developing the radio and automobile industry as a business capital expenditure of the Company or to be invested to open a Radio Institute or Automobile Institute, or both, according to the discretion of the Company.

The interest accruing from these investments, or the entire amount can be utilised by the Company for the above mentioned purposes. In case the Company is dissolved or changed to other hands, these amounts can be spent before such change occurs for the above mentioned purposes in a lump sum, or for a maternity hospital for the benefit of the labourers in general or for an industrial educational institute for labourers, according to the Company's discretion.

2. Bonds worth Rs. 50,000/- to be given to the Inspector General of Police, the interest on which is to be utilised for the education of the children of deserving police constables, subject to the condition that it applies to children of police constables of this district and children of police constables of other districts, who have served in this district for not less than three years, and that it applies only to high school education not exceeding three years: this amount to be equally distributed for three to ten children selected by the Deputy Inspector General of Police of this range, with the approval of the I. G. of Police.

3. Bonds worth Rs. 25,000/- to be given to the Trustees of the Pachaiappa's College, to be used for a Radio Laboratory.

4. Bonds worth Rs. 10,000/- to be given to the Andhra University for annual scholarships for Radio Research work.

5. Bonds worth Rs. 25,000/- to be given to the Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, the interest of which to be given for scholarship for brilliant boys of fourth year course in Automobile Engineering for not less than three students, who come first in servicing of chassis alignment, electrical equipment, carburettors and engine fitting.

In addition to the above, between 20 to 30 serviceable buses, now on the road, which will be replaced soon by the newly got lease-lend vehicles, will be given to Madras Regiment, free of cost for training purposes before I retire and hand over charge.

It may not be out of place to mention here that MR L. R. G. NAIDU who is sitting at this table, was with me when I started this business. He is also owning a big business equal to this one. Now he is going to take charge of this business too and I have got the confidence and hope, that he will conduct the business with the main aim of serving the public and with the foremost object of co-operating with war efforts. After this I am sure, I will have more time at my disposal to spend for war efforts. I need not say, that it is the bounden duty of every living individual in this land to strive for this purpose, whatever his views on political, social, or other matters may be.

I thank Your Excellency once again for the patient hearing given to me. Wishing Your Excellency a long and prosperous life.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY

Mr Naidu, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like first of all to say how very delighted my daughter and myself are to be here at this function today. I have said before, and I repeat it now, and will repeat it again, that I always enjoy a visit to Coimbatore. I think that Mr Naidu very much represents Coimbatore in every way. As he has just said, he started in a small way, and has now grown into a very big man. Coimbatore, no doubt, started in a small way, and has certainly become a very big city; and, although a short time ago I have been told by one person at this function, that until he came down to the South, he never heard of Coimbatore. I am quite certain that before many years are passed, Coimbatore will be known throughout the world in the same way as Bombay or Madras or Delhi. It is people like Mr Naidu, who has got the town on the map, and I do most sincerely congratulate him on the wonderful things he has done during the course of a not very long life. I want to thank him very much indeed for these magnificent donations, both to the investment in war loans, and the philanthropic and charitable gifts, which he has given.

In England we have a gentleman rather similar to Mr Naidu called LORD NUFFIELD, who has given an enormous amount of money, always for good objects out of the profits made in his concern; and although Mr Naidu may not be thinking of Lord Nuffield, he is doing indeed the same thing. I do appreciate it enormously; it is a wonderful example,

quite apart from the monetary value of the gift, and I am sure that others in all parts of India can take that example to heart and do what they can, not only for the War Fund, but also for the needs of the poor and the suffering. I appreciate his gifts enormously. They will be used as Mr Naidu wishes. I am perfectly certain that he is giving an example, which will be followed by many, not only in the Presidency, but throughout the country.

Mr Naidu said that 1944 will be the year of victory. I profoundly hope so too. We have had very difficult times in the past and our difficulties are by no means over. Although Italy is now out of the war, we have still to defeat Germany and Japan. And we have got to make absolutely certain that victory will be complete. We have got to go right on to the very end, with a 100% victory and with the Armistice declared in Berlin. The same thing applies to Japan as well.

Unless we finish this war completely and absolutely with a 100% victory, we will have a repetition of the war again in 25 or 50 years time. Germans, like the Japanese, are out for world domination or for splitting the world up among themselves, and that has got to come to an end. That will be done only by the whole-hearted co-operation of everybody in the United Nations, and I am perfectly convinced that, come what may, everybody in this country realises, as Mr Naidu, whatever the political complexion may be, there will be no future for India or for the world unless the military spirit of Japan and Germany is crushed once for all.

In conclusion I would once again thank Mr Naidu enormously for what he has said, what he has done and what he has given–an example to everybody not only in India but throught the United Nations. It is this spirit which Mr Naidu has shown and which is going to win this war for us. I trust very much that before I leave the Madras Presidency the European war at any rate will be over and I hope the same of the Japanese war as well and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you here in Coimbatore, Mr Naidu and everybody else, for all that you have done in the past four years, and I am fully confident and certain, that you will go on to the bitter end until the enemy is crushed finally and for all time.

MISS G. D. SAROJINI, daughter of Mr G. D. Naidu, proposing a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of her father said :–

"I am indeed grateful to Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, for attending this lunch and making it a success.

"It is specially gratifying that Miss Hope should be amongst us this afternoon as it is, her first visit to this place. I wish Miss Hope may have many such occasions, and also trust we will have her enjoyable company more often in the future.

"I am very much thankful also to MR BURTON and MISS LECHLER for the unreserved help they have rendered to carry out the various arrangements to make the function a success.

"I once more propose a hearty vote of thanks to Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen."

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

MR G. D. NAIDU

on the occasion of the marriage of

G. D. SAROJINI — L. G. BALAKRISHNAN

in the distinguished presence of

THEIR EXCELLENCIES

SIR ARTHUR AND LADY HOPE

ON

28—4—1944

AND THE

CONNECTED PROCEEDINGS

WITH

AN ARTICLE IN SUPPORT OF 'REFORM MARRIAGE'

BY

MR G. D. NAIDU

MR G. D. NAIDU
ON REFORM MARRIAGE

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly, allow me to thank YOUR EXCELLENCY and the HON'BLE LADY HOPE for having kindly responded to my invitation and thus honouring me by your presence.

Secondly, my sincere thanks to the guests, ladies and gentlemen, who have come here from distant places, amidst many inconveniences.

The marriage function, which you are going to witness, will be in the simplest form, devoid of all usual customs, followed blindly by the Hindu Society. I am concious, that some of my friends will have something to say about this function. Whatever views they may hold, I have to tell something to them of what I have in my mind.

Though we are progressing and adjusting ourselves with the modern civilisation, we have not changed our outlook of orthodox ways, based on old, useless and worthless customs and traditions, fearing the curse of other orthodox friends and relations. Now I want to perform this marriage as simple and as economical as possible, without fear or favour of orthodox people, and thus pave the way for other youngsters belonging to any caste or creed to follow.

Let me be clear, when I say, that I do not want to compel anybody who is following the old traditions and customs, because any amount of sermons and advices would be futile to change such a person. But I am confident, however, that my ways of thinking and the lead I give, will have a good effect on the younger generation.

I shall now narrate in brief as to how I came to this decision of performing this marriage and not following the orthodox, wasteful and meaningless customs.

To be frank, I never went to any school, but spent all my younger days in the gardens, and hence had the opportunities to read and go through all available tamil books such as *Chintamani*, *Silappadhikaram*, *Manimekalai*, *Ramayana*, *Maha Baratha*, *Nunnool*, *Tholkappiam* and all books in philosophy astrology, medicine which were available in print at that time, except novels. When my first mrriage was fixed my relations asked my father " Have you taken the consent of your son for the marriage ?", to which he replied in a light-hearted manner " Oh ! is it necessary to take permission of the bullock's neck to tie a bell ?". I overheard this to my astonishment and I made up my mind to see, how my father would tie the bell. This happened thirty two years ago, in a village where orthodoxy reigned, terrorising the ignorant villagers. In the marriages, celebrated by the Naidu community, the first important function is *Nalungu* on the first day, and *Muhurtham* the next day, and Kankana Visarjanam on the third day.

Before the first ceremony I went to a garden house outside a village and hid myself there unknown to anybody. The function was fixed to take place 7 p. m. All the guests were waiting for me, the bridegroom, to come and sit for the ceremony. Though they waited till 9-30 p. m., I did not turn up. Poor guests had dinner without the bridegroom. Meanwhile on behalf of my father and step-mother who is now here in this hall, Mr L. R. G. Naidu's father searched everywhere and found me at last in the garden house.

There is another incident appropriate to this occasion, which I do not want to mention here at length for want of time. However, in brief, I would mention the incident in a few words. Mr L. R. G. Naidu's father wanted a promise from me, that I would never misbehave and wound the feelings of my step-mother. To this I agreed on condition that he should not ask for anything more. Therefore, when he found me in the garden house, he hesitated to ask me a second favour. Finally by some force he made me to agree to the second request that is, to come to the marriage house and tie the *thali* to the bride. I did this, but refused to do other ceremonies, which had no scientific meaning. I tied the *thali*. Several Gurus and *Dhikshithars* tried their very best to satisfy me that every ceremony had some meaning, but all their arguments were in vain, as I was too well versed in Tamil Sastras. Several of my relations, amongst whom was one wellknown gentleman Mr P. S. G. Venkatasamy Naidu, who is here in this hall to-day, witnessed the scene. It would take much time, if I say more and I leave it there.

Again, in my next marriage, as well as at my brother's marriage, I refused to give room for any unnecessary ceremonies without real explanation and the purpose thereof. In those days, it was impossible for anyone to go against such customs. Of course, even in these days it is not possible for some people to go against their elderly people, but I was and am successful. Now it has become possible in several places.

As a rule, marriage functions are intended to declare, that such and such gentlman and lady have become husband and wife for the purpose of leading a legal wedded life. Unfortunately this work has become a heavy burden on the parents as well as on the couple in several ways. In most cases the parents never ask the consent of the parties. In many cases the bride and the bridegroom do not see each other until the marriage.

You are all aware that the people, leaving the rich families aside, follow the old customs by spending enormous money, energy and time beyond their means, which I need not explain, because all of you are aware of the facts.

Though I tried to advise many, I failed because of the reason of their age. But I was successful, whenever I gave this advice to young people without any difference of caste or creed. There are records. A Muslim gentleman living in a town 50 miles from here had his marriage performed in the presence of 20 friends without any ceremonies. Another Brahmin friend living in a village 22 miles from here performed

the marriage near the riverside with only four people witnessing and without any expense for any kind of ceremonies.

I can give account of a number of marriages performed in this manner. All these families are living well with lot of children and wealth. Several such friends are here in this hall who performed marriages in such simple manner. On account of the reduced functions in my own marriage, I was not in any way bothered by any troubles. I am also living in the same manner as our other friends. What I want to say here is that there should not be exorbitant expenses for the marriages and the way of performance should be simple. And my advice to the young people is to follow the simple, economical, and useful way as far as possible.

Before I decided to have this marriage, I tried to find out whether the bride and the bridegroom agreed to this wedding. I explained to both each others qualities separately and in presence of parents, and further, both of them have known each other. There is not much difference in their age, temper and outlook. They are a suitable match. Apart from the bride and bridegroom, their parents are willing for the marriage in every respect and particularly they are happy, because they find both the bride and bridegroom are desirous of the marriage. Further, when I asked the bride and bridegroom, whether they like their marriage to be performed in a simple way, by exchanging the garlands, chains or rings, or in the usual orthodox way as their other relations do, their answer was that they preferred

the former. They did not agree to this due to any pressure on my part or from any other quarter or to satisfy anyone. I am glad to say, that by their willingness, courage, and desire to set an example to others to save much trouble and expense in different ways, they have willingly agreed to this. I have not induced either of them in any way. Of course I want to spend as much as possible in giving food to poor people, as well as to relations and friends. But due to the present circumstances, I am unable to invite very many guests for dinner and lunch as in ordinary times, as I do not want to waste the essential things, which can be used in a better manner for the successful prosecution of the war which is threatening us in borders of India.

Now, with the hope that the younger generation will follow this way of conducting marriages persuading their elders to this, I wish the couple long life and happiness by becoming husband and wife from this moment. I request BALAKRISHNAN to take my daughter SAROJINI as his life-long partner, and also my daughter to take Balakrishnan as her life-long partner by exchanging garlands and chains and rings and to enjoy the happiness of married life.

RAO SAHIB C. S. CHOWDRI

The next speaker during the ceremony was Rao Sahib C. S. Chowdri, District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore, who as usual, rose splendidly to the occasion and spoke in a few wellchosen words. He offered his most cordial congratulations to Balakrishnan and Sarojini and considered that they

were very fortunate in their choice. He referred to the successful career of His Excellency the Governor of Madras and submitted that this success was due to the true partnership, that existed between His Excellency and the Hon. Lady Hope as man and wife and thought the newly married couple might well take such a married example as their model.

H. E. SIR ARTHUR HOPE

Speaking next ,His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, after first referring to the pleasure it gave him and the Hon. Lady Hope to be present on that occasion, and after offering their cangratulations and good wishes to the married couple, related a London incident in which some distinguished person in giving advice to a married couple said, "During married life leave the decisions in bigger things to the husband, in smaller things, let the wife decide." He had, he said, been married many years, but it was his experience that the "big thing" never arrived and that life was made up of little things only.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks proposed to Their Excellencies and the other distinguished visitors by Dr A. Krishnaswami, M. A., Ph. D., Bar-at-Law and Editor, the "*Liberator*", Madras.

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE IN AID OF THE RED CROSS FUND

In connection with the marriage of Sarojini—Balakrishnan a benefit performance was held in aid of the Red Cross Fund, on 28-4-1944 at 9-30 p. m. at the Diamond Talkies in the presence of H. E. the Governor of Madras. There was a large and distinguised gathering present. Mr S. RAMKUMAR assisted by Mr P. AYYASAMY entertained the gathering for nearly two hours.

In welcoming H. E. the Governor, MR G. D. NAIDU in a short speech announced donation of Rs. 26,500 for various charities.

"Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to take this opportunity to present this purse to Your Excelency as my further contribution for the war efforts in which Your Excellency is much interested than anybody else. Before I present the purse, I would like to say a few words as to how this amount came up. A few years ago I invested in the Modern Bank Ltd., a certain amount in my daughter's name with the condition that she would get this amount if her marriage takes place after completing 18 years, but on the other hand, if the marriage takes place before

the 17th year, the said amount would go to some charities. Subsequently after a few years, the same amount was invested in some other concern for higher interest. While I was in the United States of America at St. Louis on February 8, 1940, I delivered a lecture on the duty of the elderly men and women to young boys and girls – what should they give to the younger generation—education or wealth—if both, for how long and how much and to whom it should be given. In the course of this lecture, I said, that the duty of the elderly people is to give education only upto a certain standard and age and to provide something for their maintenance only and if they want anything more for their extra expenses or for any luxuries, they should be made to earn. Having this in mind, on my return one day in December, 1940, I asked my auditor to draw gift deeds for my daughters and son and others, so that they may get sufficient income for their education and maintenance. It was during this time that some more amount was added to the amount already invested in my daughter's name, which now amounts to Rs. 18,000.

I have already said, that she would get this amount if her marriage takes place after completing 18 years of age and if it takes place before she completes her 17th year the amount goes to some charity. I did not put any condition what would happen to this amount if she is married in her 18th year. Now the marriage has taken place when she has just completed 17. Therefore, I left to her discretion as to how this amount should be disposed of. When questioned, she told me that even if the

marriage takes place after the completion of 18 years the whole amount should go to some charity after deducting the expenses. When I asked her how much should be spent she said: "I do not want any costly jewels, or clothes and I want the marriage to be as simple and economical as possible". On my part I do not want to spend any money from this amount and hence it is my desire, Your Excellency, that the whole amount should go for charity.

Now coming to Mr Ramkumar popularly known as a Man of a Thousand Faces, hereafter, in addition to this name, we will call him the "Man of Thousand Voices". He is, indeed, a genius in his art. He knows more than 25 languages and he imitates every man, he meets. I am afraid he may imitate me too as I stand here. He has already done much in connection with the war efforts and propaganda. He has given more than 30 performances in aid of Your Excellency's War Fund in different places in South India. He promised to be here and give this performance in connection with my daughter's marriage and readily agreed to give the collection if made for the Red Cross. This is the first performance he gives in Coimbatore and I am sure he would give many more performances, so that we would be benefitted substantially through his art and talent. Here I want to mention, Your Excellency, that Mr Ramkumar's talent, art and sacrifice have not been appreciated and recognised hitherto to the extent they deserve. I am glad that Coimbatore public have relalised that his art has more educative value for young and old, poor and rich. His success is more notable, because he never indulges in

vulgarity or low suggestions. I hope Mr Ramkumar will use his gifted art in the most useful way for furthering the war efforts and also educating the general public and I am sure he would be a great asset for war propaganda as he is well versed in all languages. In this performance the amount collected comes to Rs. 1,000 by wholesale. Further, Mr L. R. G Naidu gave Rs. 7,500 for jewels to my daughter, which she agreed to give for charity and thus the total comes to Rs. 26,500 (Rupees twenty-six thousand and five hundred) and I request Your Excellency to accept this purse, though the amount is small and distribute the same for the purposes mentioned below. Out of this total amount, Rs. 1,350 have already been remitted in London to Queen Charlottees Hospital for Indian beds and the balance of Rs. 25,150 should be distributed for the purposes mentioned below :

		Rs.
1.	Red Cross	2,000
2.	Indian Hospitality Committee–President Hon'ble Lady Hope	5,000
3.	Coimbatore Indian Soldiers Canteen	1,000
4.	Polish evacuees children	1,000
5.	For purchasing one iron lung for Coimbatore General Hospital ...	3,146

6. For the Hon'ble Lady Hope Prizes donated by Mrs L. G. B. Sarojini :

	Value in Rupees	Endowment in Rupees
Silver medal for the best qualifying nurse of the year	40	1,334
Silver medal for the Nurse, best in Certificate Midwifery training..	40	1,334
Silver Medal for good sportsmanship in the promotion and practice, e. g., Tennis, Swimming, Badminton, Drill Theatricals etc...	30	1,000
First Prize for Surgical Nursing ...	30	1,000
Second Prize for Surgical Nursing...	20	667
First Prize for Medical Nursiug ...	30	1,000
Second Prize for Medical Nursing...	20	667
First Prize for Gynæcological and Obstetrical Nursing ...	30	1,000
Second Prize for Gynæcological and Obstetrical Nursing ...	20	667
	260	20,815

Preliminary Examination

	260	20,815
First Prize for Elementary Nursing	20	667
Second Prize for Elementary Nursing	15	500
First Prize for Hygiene ...	20	667
Second Prize for Hygiene ...	15	500
One Prize in Roller bandaging	20	667
One Prize in First Aid ...	20	667
One Prize in invalid cooking ...	20	667
Total ...	390	25,150

And I request Your Excellency to present the medal to Mr S. Ramkumar the man of Thousand Faces and to his assistant Mr P. Ayyasamy. After the presentation of medals, His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope made a short speech and thanked Mr G. D. Naidu for his donation. The function came to a close at 11-30 p. m.

In Condemnation of Reform Marriage :

(*From the "LIFE", Weekly, Coimbatore, dated 16-6-1944*)

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr S. R. Narayana Ayyar, Advocate Coonoor, writes as follows with regard to Mr G. D. Naidu's speech on reform marriages that appeared in a recent issue of LIFE :—

"Mr G. D, Naidu, that forward Industrialist of Coimbatore has got his daughter's marriage performed without religious ceremonies. He has explained that he "wanted to set an example for ECONOMY and AVOIDING WASTE customary with Hindu marriages". If certain Hindus want to act against religion, they cannot be prevented, but when they begin to give reasons for such action, others cannot allow such a reasoning to go without being challenged. Do the ceremonies enjoined during marriages involve a lot of money and is it a waste ? The priest, who acts on such occasions gets a remuneration ranging from Rupees 5 to 25 at the most. The others of the priestly caste who gather there get 2 to 4 annas each. It all depends upon the mentality and the capacity of the parents of the couple. Perhaps a wealthy industrialist like Mr G. D. Naidu would have paid more.

" Let him calculate the cost, which was involved in the marriage of his daughter by inviting His Excellency the Governor and the numerous officials and friends, who graced the occasion of the marriage. Does Mr Naidu seriously maintain, that he has set an example of economy by avoiding the ceremonies in his daughter's marriage? It needed only be looked into, to be rejected as untenable. The fact is that neither in the marriage performed by Brahmans nor by Non-Brahmans do the purely religious ceremonies cost any great amount. At the most Mr Naidu might have spent a couple of hundreds, where a poor man would have spent not more than Rs. 50/- Hence let him not put forward ECONOMY as a valid reason. No doubt there is a lot of waste in Hindu marriages but NOT in performing religious ceremonies but in feasting, tea parties and the thoughtless waste in sweets, music, dance, clothing, jewels and dowries etc. These do not form religious ceremonies. Walking seven steps round the fire, tying a *thali* with a cotton thread and uttering various sacred words do not cost much money. In comparison, the religious ceremonies cost a negligible amount.

But apart from this, is it desirable that religious ceremonies should be avoided? I do not at all mean that the ceremonies should be done with the help of the Brahmans. Ayyangars, Ayyars and Rowjies, bring their own caste priests to perform such ceremonies and I do not see any objection, if Naidu priests perform the ceremonies enjoined by Hindu religion, provided they have studied to act as priests. If the meanings of the ceremonies are only

made known to all concerned them I feel sure that none would like to avoid the ceremonies. If a couple were to act up to the ideals put forward by ceremonies, then I feel certain, that there will be an unpleasantness in the married life of many persons.

"It is clear that by avoiding religious ceremonies Mr Naidu has only lost the opportunity of making the couple realise that marriage is not for merely sensual pleasures, but it has a higher aim not only to society but also to the couple in their future lives. I have already pointed out that he neither set an example in economy, nor did he avoid waste of money.

But as regards marriage without ceremonies amongst Hindus, will it be a valid marriage in the eyes of the Law, unless the marriage is made valid by some of the laws enacted by our Rulers? The fact, that H. E. the Governor, a devoted Catholic Christian, was the principal spokesman proves that a Christian has in a way taken the place of the Hindu priest! It may be a novelty now, but when a question of inheritance unfortunately crops up later—I pray that such a thing will not come up—then only the difficulty will be realised. It is a pity that while non-Hindus are doing everything to ruin Hinduism Hindus also, like the proverbial elephants, throw mud on their own heads in various ways in our sacred land.

S. R. Narayana Ayyar.

In Support of Reform Marriage:

Mr G. D. NAIDU'S REPLY

to the letter of Mr S. R. Narayana Ayyar, Coonoor, Published in the '*Life*' (*Weekly*) Coimbatore, about Reform Marriage

To

The Editor, "Life",
Coimbatore.

Dear Sir,

It is with much surprise, I went through the letter of Mr S. R. Narayana Ayyar, Advocate, Coonoor, published in your paper of the 16th instant on page 4. Though it is not my desire to reply now, I am forced to do so, as you have said in your paper, that my reply would be published this week.

First of all, I have to point out that Mr Narayana Ayyar has not quoted my very words and sentences in the speech. But he has inserted his own coined words and conclusions and tried to comment and mislead the pnblic. In my speech, I have not blamed people who give a few rupees to a Brahman priest whose cause Mr Narayana Ayyar storngly advocates, though I wish that priest-craft should go away. On the other hand, what I have said in my speech is that "There should not be exorbitant expenses in marriages and that the way of performance should be simple." I ask in all seriousness, will any sane man have any objection to this view of mine?

Secondly I wanted to have marriages performed in a simple way devoid of religious ceremonies with no scientific back ground. In most of the Hindu marriages, there are unscientific ceremonies like *Nichiathartham, Nalungu, Kankana Visarjanam,* walking seven steps round the fire, going on a mock pilgrimage to Benares and looking at Arundathi which is not at all visible, and such other numerous ceremonies without any meaning and which cannot be understood by anyone. Though these are all meaningless, they are taken as more important and sacred in the name of religion by orthodox people without understanding. Further, who is not aware that these ceremonies were introduced by priests in the good old days in the name of religion for their own benefit? Lot of money is wasted by the priests in festivities connected with these ceremonies by having grand feasts, music parties, dances and thamashas of various kinds which at times ruin many families as they have to borrow.

Though the *dhakshinas* may be small as Mr Narayana Ayyar says, there is no meaning in it and it is not a charity or the cost for repeating the manthras. They are professional manthras in a language which is not understood either by the bride or the bridegroom or the people assembled there. Our Mr Narayana Ayyar says that the ceremonies give opportunities for the couple to know the sacredness of the marriage. But as far as I know, the ceremonies on the other hand make the couple to follow the old ideas of superstition and stupidity. Not only that, the manthras chanted are nothing but evoking the blessings of certain Gods who are

said to have committed all sorts of vagaries and immoral acts. Further what is the meaning of the so called manthras chanted in an unknown and dead and buried language. The meanings of some of them are: bring coconuts, bring money, bring flower etc. In what way are these manthrams sacred? Will Mr Narayana Ayyar explain? Are not these manthras intended to spend their life in easy way in the name of religion and superstition and are there anywhere in the world any such returns achieved by these manthras? Sure nowhere. Mr Narayana Ayyar says that by inviting His Excellency the Governor and officials and friends, I have wasted lot of money. This is nothing but an imagination. I have not spent any amount worth mentioning in connection with the visit of His Excellency to my daughter's marriage except the cost of two garlands, nor have I wasted any money in music, dance parties, in buying jewels and clothings and in holding feasts.

Then lastly Mr Narayana Ayyar discusses about the legal validity of the marriage. In this rather I should be anxious than he. I know to protect the interests of my daughter. Among the Hindus, there are many castes and sub-castes. Marriage ceremonies differ according to castes and creeds. Introduction of a priest is one in many castes. Among Akambadias and Kallas instead of the bridegroom the sister of the bridegroom represents the bridegroom and ties *thali*. Among the Nattu Kottai Chettys an old man having many children ties the *thali*. In many of the marriages of Gounders there is no Brahman priest at all. If

there is any in so-called rich families it is more as a civilisation than as religious. Among the Malayalis there is no intermediary at all. The bride and the bride-groom only exchange garlands before a gathering. Among the Adidravidas there are no ceremonies at all. Remember all these belong to the Hindu Socity. When there is no one common ceremony for the Hindu Society how can any marriage done in a simple way without the so-called religious ceremonies become invalid? What about the marriage of Shakunthala and Dushyantha, where there was no ceremony at all? Is it valid or invalid? My opinion is that in the Hindu Society in which there are dlfferent systems of marriage, it is not necessary that a particular system should be followed. Any sensible and sane system can be adopted. If the Hindu law does not permit this, then such a law itself is as defective as the old mantras and have to be condemned and modified to suit the present days.

In conclusion, I would say, that Mr Narayana Ayyar has rather written this as an old blind follower of an Hindu orthodox priest and not as one who sees in the welfare of the so-called Hindu Society.

G. D. Naidu.

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

MR G. D. NAIDU

on the

occasion of the inauguration of the

U. M. S. WAR TECHNICIANS HOSTEL,

COIMBATORE

BY

MR C. F. V. WLLIAMS I. C. S.,

on

23—1—1945.

UMS
WAR TECHNICIANS HOSTEL

U. M. S. WAR TECHNICIANS' HOSTEL.

MR G. D. NAIDU'S SPEECH.

COIMBATORE, January 23, 1945:

Before a gathering of distinguished people, the U. M. S. War Technicians' Hostel, constructed by Mr G. D. Naidu, was opened by the Collector of Coimbatore Mr C. F. V. Williams this evening, in the unavoidable absence of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, who was not able to come owing to indisposition. The Collector and the guests on arrival were received by Mr G. D. Naidu. Requesting the Collector to declare open the Hostel, Mr G. D. Naidu said:

"I am not fortunate to have His Excellency for this function. I am aware of the multifarious activities with which His Excellency has all along been busy. Any other person less energetic would have found it extremely difficult. In spite of this, it has been my fortune that whenever I requested His Excellency's indulgence in associating himself with some of the humble activities in which I have been engaging, he found it convenient to give his assent. For this generous response on the part of His Excellency, I am extremely grateful. I am glad you are here on His Excellency's behalf and I thank you for the same.

Though most of our friends assembled here are aware that a band of people called "War Technicians" are being trained in different centres, they may not know all the interesting facts connected with the scheme known as the Technical Training Scheme. This scheme was started all over India 8½ years ago to overcome the lack of technical personnel required for essential work. What success has been achieved by this scheme is evident from the fact that in the first year, that is in 1941, only 3,000 trained men were turned out and by June 1944, the figure rose to 75,000. In our Province in particular, in comparison with other provinces, I learn, that we have turned out the maximum number of trainees. Thus this is one of the numerous war activities like National War Front Organisation, War Loans, War Funds etc., in all of which our Madras leads the other Provinces. Here, I may be permitted to state the fact that but for His Excellency's untiring efforts, energy and popularity, all these could not have been achieved. I have no doubt, that any one else other than His Excellency could not have succeeded in winning the willing co-operation of the masses of this Province in all the efforts under conditions peculiar to our Presidency. I would like to mention here that no small credit for the success of the Technical Training Scheme in this Province goes to Mr V. Ramakrishna, Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal, who has been doing his duty and service for the cause, not caring for publicity in the press or elsewhere as many others do.

Selection and Training of Candidates Here let me say a word or two about the method of selection of candidates and their career. At present the Recruiting Officers in different Centres select boys above 15 years of age with some mechanical bent of mind and distribute them among the several centres, where technically qualified instructors give them training for periods varying from 4 months to one year. · At the end of this training a trade test is conducted and successful candidates are distributed to the different works connected with essential service. Most of you may be surprised to learn that the training, which used to take 5 years before the war is now compressed within a year.

Dr B. R. Ambedkar in his recent address to the Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee said, that some industrialists complain, that the training is inadequate. I have to differ from those industrialists. By my personal contact with the trainees, I am satisfied that several of them fare in practical skill much better than some of the degree-holders and engineers. I do not say that this training turns out expert engineers. But I do say that, when they return from their essential work, these trainees with their practical skill are going to be a great asset to the country, than mere degree-holders, in helping to build up post-war industries, in our country, which is still to be developed. I would even go further and say that the present Technical Training Centres should continue to be permanent, since they are preferable to the present semipolitical institutions, which turn out degree - holders and so-called cottage

industrial and economic experts without much practical skill or use.

War Technicians Scheme in Coimbatore Now coming to our efforts at Coimbatore in connection with this War Technicians' Scheme, we took about 50 trainees in 1941 in our National Electric Works at Peelamedu. We found that even in 1941 in a growing industrial city like Coimbatore, the trainees were not able to find suitable accommodation both of lodging and boarding. To provide the then existing technicians, apprentices and students with these necessities a small hostel block was constructed adjoining the works in that very year and His Excellency did us the honour of formally opening that Hostel in December of that year. Subsequently the number was increased to 100. In order to give these technicians training in several trades like those of motor fitters, motor electricians, painters, welders etc with proper facilities for training in these trades, this centre was shifted to the present workshop in the United Motors Central Bus Stand, which was also opened by His Excellency in 1942. Sometime after the shifting, the trainees had to face very serious difficulties due to lack of acommodation in the town, introduction of rationing and severity of plague etc. Under such circumstances, I readily agreed with the suggestion of the Regional Inspector, Mr Peters to construct this Hostel for their sake in this place. Construction during war time is not without difficulties. Though iron materials and stones were collected quite a long time ago, due to lack of other materials and labour, some delay could not be avoided. On account of the

sanction kindly given by the Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal for purchasing wood for this building, we were able to save a portion of iron materials, which can be used for some other essential works. There are still some more rooms to be added and they will be completed soon.

Accommodative Power of the Hostel

I must admit that in building this Hostel, I have not merely had in view anything of such a temporary nature as accommodation of the War Technicians alone. This Hostel had been designed to accommodate twice the number of technicians now undergoing training. His Excellency has been kind enough to accept my offer of Automobile garage equipments and Radio factory equipments worth at present about 2 lakhs and cash in Government bonds, 1½ lakhs for starting two Institutes, one for Automobile and another for Radio Engineering. I expect the students selected for both the institutes can also be easily accommodated in this Hostel. Further, I understand, that even after the war, this technical centre will remain and so this Hostel will have the fortune of serving the cause of industry and the unemployed by turning out skilled young men of high calibre. If that happens, I would have done a bit of service in my own humble way.

Before I conclude, I have to thank the Chairman of the Municipal Council, the Commissioner, the Engineers and Health Officers for having kindly co-operated and supplied water and electricity to the Hostel under present difficulties. I have again to

thank Mr V. Ramakrishna, Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal and Mr Peters, Regional Inspector, on behalf of myself and the young trainees, who will be the future industrialists of India for having given all the help and enthusiasm to develop non-industrial India into a happy industrial India and also on behalf of all those people, who are keen on developing our future industry."

Mr Naidu then requested the Collector to declare open the Hostel.

COLLECTOR'S SPEECH

Mr C. F. V. Williams I. C. S., Collector of Coimbatore, in declaring open the Hostel expressed on behalf of H. E. the Governor, His Excellency's regret, that he was not able to preside over the function because of his sudden illness though he was looking forward to the opening of the Hostel. He expressed and he had no doubt that His Excellency would have expressed similar sentiments if he had been here, that Mr G. D. Naidu had shown magnificent enterprise and public spirit in building this Hostel and providing domestic needs for the boys, who were being trained as War Technicians. So far as technical training was concerned, they might feel confident that under the guidance of Mr G. D. Naidu, it would be both efficient and comprehensive. Technical training was one thing and bodily needs and comforts was another thing. It had been well recognised that if they wanted to get the best out of workmen and if they wanted to ensure efficient service, the workmen should be kept in comfort and contentment.

Proceeding, the Collector said, that the construction of a Hostel itself was as much a contribution to the war effort as the scheme for the training and equipment of war technicians. The speaker also stated, that they must continue their war efforts with full vigour and added, that they should exert every ounce of their energy towards the same. The war was going on and they could not relax their war efforts. They might look forward to the ultimate victory and peace that would follow. Among several things they hoped to see in India was a vast expansion of industry in all its forms with the consequential rise in the general standard of living.

Concluding, the Collector stated, that by constructing the Hostel for war technicians, Mr G. D. Naidu was not only making great contributions, but also was opening the way to the beneficent treatment of industrial and technical labour, which they hoped would be established in India after the war.

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

MR G. D. NAIDU

on the occasion of a tea party
given in honour of

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR ARTHUR HOPE G. C. I. E., M. C.,

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,

at

"Gopal Bagh", Avanashi Road,
COIMBATORE

and

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY

on

13—2—1946.

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbaroyan's visit to the A. H. P. in 1947.

To His Fxcellency's left and right are Mr V. V. L. Rao and Mr G. D. Naidu, respectively.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope G. C. I. E., M. C., Governor of Madras, was entertained at a grand tea party by Mr G. D. Naidu on the 13th February, 1946 at his residence at 5 p. m.

More than 1500 guests including Military personnel were present. Prominent among those were Mr and Mrs F. W. A. Morris, Brigadier R. J. D. Teague, Brigadier V. T Smith, Mr and Mrs J. C. Burton, Mrs and Colonel L. B. Tottenham, Mrs and Colonel Collingwood, Lieut. Colonel T. G. Macaulay, Mrs and Dr J. J. Rudra Mr and Mrs K. Srinivasan, Major Guman Singh, Major P. J. Kelley, Dr Wignaraja of Colombo, Mr and Mrs S. P. Thompson, Mr, Mrs and Miss Roy, Mr K. W. Taylor, Rotarian District Governor, Mr A. Gardiner, Representative of the Rotary International, Mr and Mrs Trelevean, Mr H. D Latham O. B. E., Mr and Mrs Narayana Iyengar, Major D. A. R. Elliot, Major S. R. Sarma, Mr A. Khaleeli I. C. S., Director of Industries, Mr V. V. L. Rao, Radio Engineer, Mrs and Lieut. Colonel Richards, Captain J. Brown, Dewan Bahadurs P. S. G. Rangaswami Naidu and C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, Mrs and Captain Baker, The Raja of Kollengode, Rao Bahadurs R. Guruswami Naidu, V. Gopal Naidu and S. V. V. Naidu, Dr O. J. Correlli, Mr E. H. Stanes, The Zamindar of Uthukuli, Commander C. W. Croxford, Messrs K. Gopal Rao, Mr A. Shanmugham, V. Kanakasabai Nadar, Mr and Mrs L. G. Balakrishnan,

Dr N. Velappan, Messrs C. D. Thulasirama Mudaliar and Paul Vincent, Rao Bahadur A. T. Krishnasamy Mudaliar, Mr E. C. Allardice, Mrs and Captain W. N. Datta and the delegates of the Fourth Conference of the 91st District Rotary International.

ADDRESS BY MR G. D. NAIDU

"*Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am grateful to Your Excellency for having so kindly accepted to attend the function today. Though this party is mainly in the nature of a farewell to Your Excellency, it happily serves also as the occasion of the anniversary of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic and an address on behalf of the citizens of Coimbatore with certain requests to Your Excellency. During the same month last year, Your Excellency was here to open the Arther Hope Polytechnic and on that occasion, you almost bade us farewell, since you expected to leave for England in March. It made us all happy, that you stayed on for a year more and it is a matter of particular pleasure to us at Coimbatore, that you are here today, on what I may call the first birthday of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic.

I would like to say here just a few words regarding the progress of this institution during the last year and some of my own experiences as Honorary Director. At the end of three months after admission of candidates, those who were found unsuitable on account of ill-health, lack of aptitude

Group Photo of
Students, Staff, Principal, Director of Industries with H. E. The Governor of Madras on the occasion of the Anniversary of Arthur Hope Polytechnic on 13-2-46.

for the profession or lack of respect for discipline etc were sent away. It is my opinion that such a procedure in the final selection of candidates is necessary, so that time and money are not wasted on undesirable candidates. In the method of teaching I found that instead of separate theory and practical work, the lecturers and demonstrators are with the students, and explain to them all the theory that is necessary as occasions arise. Extra classes outside class hours were held in which the students themselves addressed the classes on certain topics and such classes were made use of by me in enabling the students to get rid of bad habits like smoking and too much drinking of coffee etc and also to mould their character and to learn to prosper in business. The only holidays, that the students had were Sundays and in this respect, this institution is exceptional, as the educational institutions in India hold the world record for holidays.

The students' hostel was first handed over by me to a Warden and is now being run by the students themselves. The rice, that is needed for the hostel is being specially grown on leased lands in Gobi-chettipalayam, and the vegetables are grown in my own garden; cows and buffaloes have been purchased and are being maintained for supplying the hostel with the best milk and the menu has been so drawn that each student gets not less than 2,600 calories of nourshing food per day. A condition was made that any student who, at such a growing age, in spite of this food, lost more than 5 lbs in weight within 3 months would be sent away and that if any cook or other members of the staff gained more than 5 lbs in

weight would also be sent away. As a result, 15 students and two cooks had to leave. All students except three gained weight varying from 3 to 14 lbs. Finally I consider that as far as the standard of the Government Examination is concerned, with the training my students have already received, 75% of them are sure to pass, but my aim is to see that not only will all of them pass but they will also turn out to be first class engineers.

Regarding scholarships, I have been giving nine scholarships of Rs. 20/- each for the first year students and I will be giving 18 next year and 20 in the 3rd year - all of the same amount. I am glad that the Government also have promised to give the same number of scholarships to the students of the Polytechnic. I hope that Your Excellency will have in mind the students that will pass out of this Polytechnic and Arthur Hope College of Technology and will render them parental guidance when they go to England for further training.

There are two other matters, Your Excellency, in which we, the citizens of Coimbatore, are deeply interested. One is regarding the future of Arthur Hope College of Technology. I have already written to Your Excellency two months ago that this College ought to be expanded to include well-equipped and well-staffed departments of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Geology and Economics, so that this institution may play a worthy part and fill a gap that would arise, during the post-war period, which would need engineers and graduates highly specialised in all such applied sciences. It is easy to

envisage that, with the Agricultural and Forest Colleges in Coimbatore and with the need for B. Sc. course in the subjects mentioned, there is a realistic and practical scope for a separate University to arise here at Coimbatore in the near future. Perhaps Madras friends including our Director of Industries, Mr Khaleeli, may not support this idea, as they want everything in Madras. I trust however that Your Excellency has already taken action in the matter as promised, and before you leave, we hope that these departments will be sanctioned and established.

I am glad to announce to the guests here that His Excellency visited the Arthur Hope College of Technology yesterday and discussed about the extent of land required for the location of the College. He has agreed to acquire 1,000 acres for that purpose. It is a matter of regret, that all the proposed national laboratories are going to be established only in Northern India. When I asked a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council why Madras Presidency should be neglected, he told me, that the Tatas are offering ten lacs of rupees, and hence they are going to establish one of the laboratories in Poona, while other laboratories are going to be located in Jamshedpur, Calcutta, Delhi and Danbad all in Northern India. I asked the member if I offered 20 lacs of rupees to the Central Government, whether they would be pleased to establish a laboratory in the Andamans! Expecting that if South India presses the claims, the laboratories may be located here, I requested His Excellency to acquire more

lands. You will be also glad to know that His Excellency has agreed to acquire 100 acres for the Arthur Hope Polytechnic in addition to 1000 acres being acquired for the College.

The other matter is with regard to raising to the status of a First Grade College, the present Government Arts College, which has continued for decades to stagnate as a Second Grade College, while less important districts than Coimbatore have long ago started First Grade Colleges. Our young men of the district are being put to a great deal of difficulty and inconvenience in having to migrate to colleges in other districts, which are themselves already over-crowded. We strongly believe, that it will be possible to commence a First Grade College in the ensuing academic year itself, as promised, and that before your departure, all budget and necessary arrangements will be sanctioned.

Your Excellency, I have just stated these things, only because we may not have another opportunity of representing these things to you, but today is an occasion when our hearts are concentrated on the thought of your impending departure.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have known His Excellency for the last 5 years. The first time I saw His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope was in the Slater Hall at Coimbatore, in February 1941, where he was addressing a public meeting, rousing the audience to a greater war effort. I was so struck by his powerful personality, sincerity of purpose, strength of conviction and soundness of his arguments,

that I decided to help the Government in whatever humble way I could. What little I may have done to further the cause of the war, industrial education, industrialisation in our Province and training of War Technicians etc bears testimony to the influence of His Excellency over men of this Province. I have heard him speak on numerous occasions, met him in a few parties and invited him to some functions and with each contact has grown my deep admiration for both his administrative and human qualities.

What His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope has achieved as an administrative head of a big Province like Madras during the most troublesome period of six years that any Governor of a province had to face either now or during the long period of British rule, is, shall I say, already passing into History and I will be wasting an effort in trying to enumerate all that he has done to the Province. A casual perusal of the dailies, particularly of this Province, will easily show the enormous amount of work that His Excellency has been doing day in and day out incessantly during the last six years, at great cost to his health and his personal comforts, without pomp or ceremony, now in one corner of the Province, next in another; adressing meetings, exhorting people for their contribution, physical and financial to the war; inspecting schemes and projects; opening institutions, educational, industrial and charitable; interviewing scores of people, redressing their grievances or encouraging them in their good work; and with all this, personally attending to files and all administrative matters, guiding and pushing up plans

and schemes for war and peace. All this, by one man, faced in his administration by non-co-operation of political parties and without a legislature to help him to know the feelings of the people! I can only say that it was a superhuman task which could have been accomplished by no other than His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope. In some measure, it was my privelege to come into contact with His Excellency in certain important administrative matters, and his methods of handling the affairs concerned easily convinced me of his greatness as an administrator and as a man. The courtesy and informality with which he receives people, the deep and sincere consideration which he gives to the matter under discussion, the perfect candour with which he talks, the incredible quickness with which he acts on whatever he promises and his high sense of justice are a few of the many good qualities, which have struck me as being responsible for having made His Excellency one of the most successful administrators, which the British were ever able to send over to India.

Undue delays have always been one's normal experience in breaking through the steel wall of civilian administration and red tape of officiousness. But I have had enough experience of His Excellency to assert that in all important matters, His Excellency cut across red tapism and got things done in record time. This is the real explanation for the progress, that this Province has shown in all matters - educational, agricultural, industrial, political etc during His Excellency's regime. I may state here as an instance that the Arthur Hope

College of Technology, which was opened by His Excellency in July of this year at Coimbatore was established within the record time of 42 days, a record, which has never to my knowledge been equalled in the annals of establishment of educational institutions of this kind and which could never have been achieved but for the great personal interest, which His Excellency has taken in every matter, that effects the welfare of the Province. I broached to His Excellency the subject of the great need for establishing an Engineering College at Coimbatore on May 28th and His Excellency himself opened the College on 9th July, in 42 days! Examples of great institutions like this springing up almost over night as if by the magic wand of His Excellency are common to us in this Presidency.

About the human qualities, which have made His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope a unique and charming personality, I need not also stress much, since the affection with which he is held by the people of the Province is in itself a tribute to those qualities. However, what has impressed me most in my contact with him is his democratic behaviour to all, irrespective of position and the courtesy with which he puts men at ease the moment he begins to talk to them. He gives one the homely impression of talking to a well-wisher, a quality rarely found in the exalted! Particularly in parties, one misses all the useless ceremoney, pomp and *bandopust*, which used to be characteristic of arrivals of Governors and Viceroys. He just walks into a function or a party, quite at home amidst the crowd, radiating good fellowship and warmth to the people, freely mixing

with them. In one of the functions to which I had the pleasure of inviting His Excellency, I was previously cautioned by an important official, who was responsible for arrangements for His Excellency's programme not to introduce more than 20 most important people as it would tire His Excellency, did not stop till he knew every one of the 120 people, that had assembled there! He has found himself so thoroughly at home with the people of this Province and has got so attached to them that every Madrasi is his friend. In a speech at the opening function of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic at Coimbatore in February 1945, at which time he expected to leave Madras by March, he invited every member of the audience, small and big, to visit him in London whenever any of them should happen to be there and he assured them of a very hearty welcome, "if not in the Government House, at any rate in my prefabricated house". Those, who heard him, knew, that he was not being formal, but most sincere.

I would like to summarise and say this. He is a great leader, as he has led the Province through the most difficult period of war, from achievement to achievement, till Madras, among all Provinces, became a name to contend with, in every aspect of contribution to Victory and has established a permanent, undying fame for the Madras Regiment, removing a slur on the Province whose people were considered not very "Martial". He is a great administrator, since he has so administered the affairs of the Province under the most adverse conditions that misery to the people of any kind was

the least known in this Province. He is a great orator, since every time he was to address any public meeting, people assembled in thousands to hear him speak and in this he was easily the envy of even the greatest of our leaders. He is a great politician and diplomat, since during his regime the political difficulties amidst a sweeping All-India unrest were at the lowest and even his political opponents conceded his sense of fairness in politics. He is a great educationist since he has been responsible for the opening of numerous educational institutions. He is a great industrialist as evidenced by the industrial progress the Province has made during his time. Above all he is a great man with such charming human qualities as to endear every one who came into contact with him.

As far as Her Excellency Lady Hope is concerned, she was deeply interested in the women of our province. Soon after her arrival in India, she started making contacts with women of all shades and status of our country and studied their disabilities and interested herself in all aspects of social work and especially in improving the nursing system. She will for long be remembered for her work as the President of the Indian Hospitality Committee, which did great service to the Indian troops. She has also been associated with several institutions meant for the amelioration of the conditions of the people of this country among which may be mentioned the Madras Childrens' Aid Society, the Vigilance Association and the New India Planning Group.

We wish their Excellencies long life, happiness and prosperity and we earnestly hope that in the years to come, they will not forget us, the people of Coimbatore."

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr Naidu, Mr Morris, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most grateful to Mr Naidu for the opportunity of my coming here this evening and addressing such a very large gathering. Not only myself, but I am sure everybody will testify to the hospitality. I listened with great interest and some emotion to your speech just now. After six years in the position I have been, it is very sad to have to go away. Well, everything has to come to an end in this world and whatever position one has got, it has to go some or other. I am most grateful for what you said, and I think, oversaid about the work, I have done. I have quite frankly during these years, tried to do my best, during the war, and since the war ended, for the people penerally of the Madras Presidency. For many years, and I won't say whose fault it is, Madras was known as the benighted presidency. Madras is a long way from Delhi and was very often forgotten. But now I think we can say, owing to the effort of the people of Madras, both officials and non-officials, Madras is now known in Delhi just as the Punjab or any other Province. I am pleased at that.

I am very sorry indeed this is my farewell visit to Coimbatore. I had farewell parties last year. I think this time it is the final one. I really would like to thank the people of Coimbatore for the help they have given. I do not want to repeat myself. I have no gifts of saying something different from one end to another. I enjoyed coming to Coimbatore on every possible occasion. I enjoyed the hospitality of everybody in this town. I feel Coimbatore has a great future. It is going to be a great town in years to come. And if I have an opportunity, which I hope I may have, of coming back here as a private individual, I shall very much look forward and enjoy your private hospitality as an individual, which you have given me as Governor.

Ladies and gentlemen, there have been very difficult years. I have tried to do the best I possibly could to help the Madras Presidency. We have recognised and realised much more than any other province. Mr Naidu has mentioned quite a number of things, some controversial and some, which you may not altogether agree with. I have a short time before I leave. But the things, which Mr Naidu has mentioned, I will certainly go into at once. I am glad to see the development of this town and I am glad to see that it has so developed during my time as Governor here. When I hand over to my successor, I would certainly mention many things. My successor is a very eminent man. He held a very high position during the war and I am quite certain that you will give him all that support, which

you have given me. And believe me, I mean from the bottom of my heart, without that support, we could not have got through what we have done.

Although the war is over, our difficulties are not over. We are going to have a great deal of trouble and difficulty. We are going to have long trouble especially on the economic and food situation. We are going in the next few months to face realities in a way, which a great number of people do not seem to realise at the present moment. It is not at all a question of British rule or national rule or Congress rule or Muslim League rule. It is a question of absolute facts we have got to face up to. It is one of the worst years in the whole history of the world. Although peace has come and war has ended, nevertheless we have got less food in the world now than we had for many years. I would appeal to everybody to face those facts and to cut down food consumption to a very great degree. All of you here and myself can cut down quite a lot. We may have less rice. I have seen the figures all over India and what we are likely to get overseas, and the situation is very serious indeed. And it is up to us, especially educated people those, who can do without their extra comforts, to cut it out as far as possible. The world shortage is very great. You had six years of war coming after economic troubles for years. We have got to realise, that the world is not what it was in 1914. We have got to face the facts of the present time. There are millions of people, who are on the verge of starvation whether in Europe or in China, and may be to a certain extent in this country as well. But we have got to set an

example, we, who are leaders and who are here in one capacity or another. Preach the doctrine of austerity, and follow it up. Next year, things may be very much better. None of us knows. Things may improve in this country and in other places. But this year is going to be a very very difficult year. I would ask you most earnestly to do everything you can to help in the situation.

Mr Naidu, I am most grateful for your hospitality, I am most grateful for your help and the help you have given me during the last six years. I appreciate it enormously. It has been of the greatest possible assistance to me. When I come back to India, there will be two places, I will go to; one is Ooty and the other is Coimbatore. Thank you very much (Cheers)."

The pleasant function terminated at 6–15 p. m., with three cheers to His Excellency, by the students of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic.

ADDRESS

BY

Mr G. D. NAIDU

ON

"ROAD SENSE AND SAFETY"

on the occasion of a

ROTARY CLUB DINNER

held at

"GOPAL BAGH",
COIMBATORE

ON

17—7—1947

President :

Rao Bahadur A. T. KRISHNASAMY MUDALIAR,
Chairman, Coimbatore Municipal Council.

ROTARY CLUB DINNER

on 17–7–1947 at the Radio Theatre, "GOPAL BAGH".

MR G. D. NAIDU ON "ROAD SENSE AND SAFETY".

Films were shown from 7 to 8 p. m. The Rotarian President and members, the Commissioner of the Municipal Council, the Municipal Engineer, Electrical Engineer, the Inspector of Industrial Schools, Students of the Arthur Hope Polytechnic and others attended the function.

After Dinner, MR G. D. NAIDU spoke on "Road Sense and Safety".

Rotarian President, Brother – Rotarians and Gentlemen,

When I am telling you something about safety sense, it is not right to tease anyone. Allow me to say here, that my whole knowledge has been gained not by theory, but only by practical experience in addition to information received then and there. If I am to deal about the subject fully, it will take several hours; then in the middle, one cannot stop the subject. Before the subject is finished, no member, or guest will be able to leave, for the sake

of courtesy. I intend, in order to avoid teasing, giving information in brief at this time, keeping the remaining materials for another occasion. Or else if my intention is successful in publishing a booklet or pamphlet, there I will deal fully later on and I will send you copies of the same.

The subject of *Safety* can be divided into several groups such as "Road Safety", "Industrial Safety", "Home Safety", "Fire Safety" etc. Of these I am now taking only road safety. "Road Safety" can be taken in three groups :

1. Safe roads and rules by the Government. 2. Safe movement by the operators. 3. Safety sense observed by the public. Now let me deal in general.

In Great Britain, 2 . 02 miles road per square mile; and in France, 1 . 84 miles road per square mile; and in the United States of America, 1 . 03 miles road per square mile.

In India 1,88,679 square miles have got 2,70,000 miles of road in which surfaced roads of 9,650 miles, mukkadam roads of 76,142 miles, gravel roads of 29,472 miles, natural soil roads of 1,22,736 miles and cart tracks of 32,000 miles are in existence, which on the whole come to . 017 miles road per square mile.

This shows the necessity and urgency of increasing the road mileage at least six times, though not 12 times for the immediate need of India. Of course, so far the Government have not taken any steps in this direction in full speed. As far as rules

are concerned, they are not made adequately to reduce the accidents. In every para, it seems there is a loop-hole. Perhaps in our country every man is able to find out a loop-hole in any kind of rules, which I do not want to discuss here. Of course, I am not asking to follow the rules of Western countries, as they are, which are not suited to the present day Indian conditions, before we are trained for such rules.

Let me quote some instances from *Readers Digest* in brief :—

"A guest, who went to a friend's house skidded on a rug, fell and broke his elbow for which the host paid a damage of $ 10,000/-

"A stepladder was shaky and a cleaner-woman fell down. She received $ 12,500/-, as compensation.

"The owner of a house paid $ 11,000/- to a lady, who tripped on the side wall where the owner's tree root was projecting slightly above the level, which made the lady fall down.

"The owner of a car left his car in a small entrance; a boy from a neighbouring house went and opened the petrol tank and then it burst into flames and disfigured the boy; the boy did not die. However the owner of the car had to pay $ 75,000/-.

"A boy and a girl were playing. The boy kicked a tin can, which struck the eye of the girl for which the boy's father had to pay $ 25,000/-.

"In dog bitten cases, in a particular case the owner paid $ 10,000/-, in another instance $ 14,000/-, and in two other cases $ 20,000/- were paid as damages.

"A man, who was walking rapidly in a corner of a street, dashed with a girl and his lighted cigar touched her face. He had to pay $ 20,000/- to the girl.

"A revolving door in a hotel, which was closed violently by a man, seriously injured a woman, for which the hotel-keeper paid $ 25,000/-."

You may wonder, why I am quoting all these irrelevant matters. I am quoting in order to give a warning to the Government, not to copy all the rules of the Western countries in toto and not to put them into force in our country. It will be a very big subject, if I am to talk about what are all the necessary rules wanted here. But let me state briefly. If any accident takes place, there should be a rule punishing those road-users, who cause accidents, without any favouritism or without giving any loop-holes. If the accident happens because of a damaged road, the Government must be punished by payment of losses. If those, who cause accidents happen to be drivers, they must be punished with punishment of imprisonment, but not with a fine, as is in existence. At the present time except the drivers, the Government and the public invariably escape, whatever might be the damage caused by them. If proper punishment is given, I hope, accidents can be reduced by 99%.

The Government in a press note begged for co-operation from the public. Before teaching the people the lesson of co-operation by the elementary chapter of proper punishment, there is no use of asking for co-operation from anyone, as no one has learnt the lesson of co-operation. Unless Government take coercive action in cases of accidents, 99% of the accidents cannot be reduced. In this connection, even in Western countries, road safety is not efficiently handled or kept in most of the places.

"In Chicago, in 1908 there were 50 accidents;
in 1919 there were about 400 accidents;
in 1929 there were about 800 accidents;
in 1939 there were about 700 accidents;

all causing death." No doubt, in recent days the population and vehicles also increased. In the same way, road sense developed safety lessons were freely given, rules and regulations also were framed, but accidents also increased.

As far as my concern is concerned, I introduced a very simple rule. Just before the war, there were 280 drivers. The accident rates are:

in 1929, 27,37,500 miles – accidents 28;
in 1930, 33,94,500 miles – 31;
in 1931, 38,32,500 miles – 14;
in 1932, 43,80 000 miles – 11;
in 1933, 59,20,500 miles – 13;
in 1934, 65,70,000 miles – 6;
in 1935, 76,65,000 miles – 8;
and in 1936, 93,07,500 miles – 7.

After 1936 and upto 1944 though there are records, they are not tabulated. However, the accident rate never increased this 1936 proportion. Those of the staff, who were working under me and are still working in the transport still keep the lowest number of accidents. This is due to that simple order, which was introduced by me in 1931. The proportion in 1929 was one accident for a lakh of miles, which was still reduced to one accident for 13 million miles in 1931. All these accidents did not cause death except a few. These accidents were due to dash with other vehicles or animals dashing against, and thus being injured.

Let me read the peculiar order, which is still observed: Memo No. M 236/31 dated 20-3-31, para 2:—

> 'If any bus, while in motion, dashes against or touches other buses, trees, bridges or other structures, animals or persons, the drivers of such buses will be summarily dismissed.'

This one rule, which is still in force, made this concern a praiseworthy one for the lowest number of accidents in the whole world.

In Oklahoma from 1918 to 1939 for a total mileage of 3,94,534 miles without any accident, and in New York in 103 months with a total of 3,21,360 miles without any accident, in another case in New York itself from 1933 to '39 with a total mileage of 1,70,046 miles without any accident, the drivers were given certificates—"no accident driver". Here

in my concern in 1936, four drivers got medals for no accidents, when they completed a million miles. Several other drivers got certificates, because they had no accidents in their ten years' service. Between 1942 and 1944, more than 70% of the drivers got medals and certificates and bonuses in appreciation of their no accident driving, in their long periods of service, ranging from 15 to 23 years. I began motor driving in 1912. For the past 35 years I have driven more than 2 million miles, but my car never touched when it is in motion anything, except the tyres touching the ground. Besides, my car never stopped on the road due to any accident, or due to any disorder. And I had never been accused in the court in connection with my driving. It is not very difficult to bring such rules as my rule, in force. Of course, we have to teach the public as well as the drivers and others of the staff, who are connected with the traffic. When proper lessons are given, any drastic rule can be brought into force easily.

Let me bring you another affair now. When once I held my boy's hand and dragged, he began crying. Gradually in a month I trained him to laugh when I hit him on his head. If it was a stronger hit, he laughed louder. This was when he was three years old. But now instead of laughing, he says 'good' whenever he is hit on the head. That is why I say by proper training and giving proper lessons, any drastic rule can be brought into force easily.

Here in India, we can see generally in railway stations and bus stands, people spitting in every

corner. By that, bad smell is produced and health of the public is damaged. Urinals and latrines also are used in a very filthy manner. In other offices, colleges, theatres, hostels and public places the same conditions can be seen. The people, who are in-charge of maintenance, never care to maintain properly. In 1942, when the U. M. S. Bus Stand was opened here, a board was hung in each post bearing the letters

> 'If you spit here, you have to clean yourself.'

This board was not painted and hung for mere show. In the first month itself three passengers who were spitting there were made to clean by their own hands. In one corner spitting was found, but the miscreant was not to be seen, or found out. In that case, the man in charge of the bus stand was made to clean by his own hands. Now for four years, no repaint or white-washing has been done in this bus stand. It stands as a monument of cleanliness even to-day.

In Arthur Hope Polytechnic Hostel within the first month itself, I found the same dirty practices, as in other places. Therefore, in all the rooms and outside the rooms, boards were hung bearing the letters,

> 'If you spit or commit any nuisance anywhere within the premises, you will have to clean the whole hostel for one day.'

Another board also was placed bearing the letters,

'Beware! If you pass urine or pass stools in places other than urinal or commodes, you will have to clean the entire latrine for two days.'

Only one boy was made to sweep the whole premises for a whole day. Three students left the Hostel and the Institute on account of these strict rules. Even to-day, if you go and inspect the Hostel, you will find as though it was opened last month. By the introduction of such rules not only the places are kept clean, but the general cleanliness and morale of the students also are maintained in a high degree.

Similarly public also can be trained for the highest sense of duty and responsibility. There is no use in asking co-operation from the public, because the public are not trained in co-operation. In the first instance, you must train people by polite lessons and sincere teachings and next by cœrcive actions, when they fail to observe. Allow me to quote one more instance. All of you know the size of Pollachi shandy and the traffic there. This shandy is the biggest one in India and the traffic also is the most crowded one with full of bullock-carts, bulls, cows, buffalloes and the market-going people. On Thursdays, it is impossible for a car to reach the railway station from the other side of the shandy. Some years ago, Police Inspector Soukkady SANTHAPPA PILLAI was asking the public, and the bullock-cart drivers to keep to the left side, when they use the road. He gave advice and later on warned for a month or so; but of no use. Then he started prosecuting such of those people, who didn't

listen to his advice for about two weeks. He prosecuted only about 20 people. Nobody was afraid of fines or imprisonment. But they were afraid of the loss of business on the market day. These 20 people spread the news of their prosecution in all the villages, as well as in the whole town. As long as Mr Pillai was there, I could not see such an orderly movement of traffic anywhere in the Presidency, not even in Madras, or Bangalore. But now it is not followed so strictly.

Last but not least, let me tell you that the safety sense depends on the staff, who control the traffic in general, and on the Government. The Government must give proper instructions and advices through their staff and other institutions and the staff must be prepared to take cœrcive action and to mete out stringent punishment, wherever and whenever necessary. Instructions must be given in all schools through films and lectures. Lectures alone are not sufficient. Films with demonstrations must be shown compulsorily. According to the recent record, WHAT ONE CAN TEACH BY TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTYTHREE HOURS (283 HOURS) LECTURE CAN BE DONE BY 20 HOURS FILM SHOWING WITH 3 HOURS OF PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION. If Government can take this method to propagate, it will be not only economical, but numerous accidents also can be prevented from being committed.

Now I have given only the preface. If I am to explain the different ways and means of instructions on safety methods, it will take enormous time. I

hope to take chapter by chapter in the following several meetings.

In our next meeting, I will explain, how these accidents happen, what percentage of accidents is committed by the vehicle operators, by the pedestrains, by the cyclists and by the motor-drivers, and during what month the accident rates are higher, and at what time of the day accidents occur more and at what age, people cause accidents etc.

Excuse me for taking so much of your valuable time for this preliminary talk on Safety Sense (Cheers).

After Mr Naidu's speech Messrs E. KIRK and R. T. NAYUDU took part in the discussion. They gave valuable suggestions and remarked that Mr G. D. Naidu would be doing a great service to the country and people, if he issued pamphlets relating to road safety and safety sense. Mr G. D. Naidu again spoke for some time, when he made clear the doubts raised by Mr Kirk.

RAO BAHADUR A. T. KRISHNASAMY MUDALIAR, in his concluding remarks, thanked Mr Naidu for his very valuable and interesting lecture of the evening.